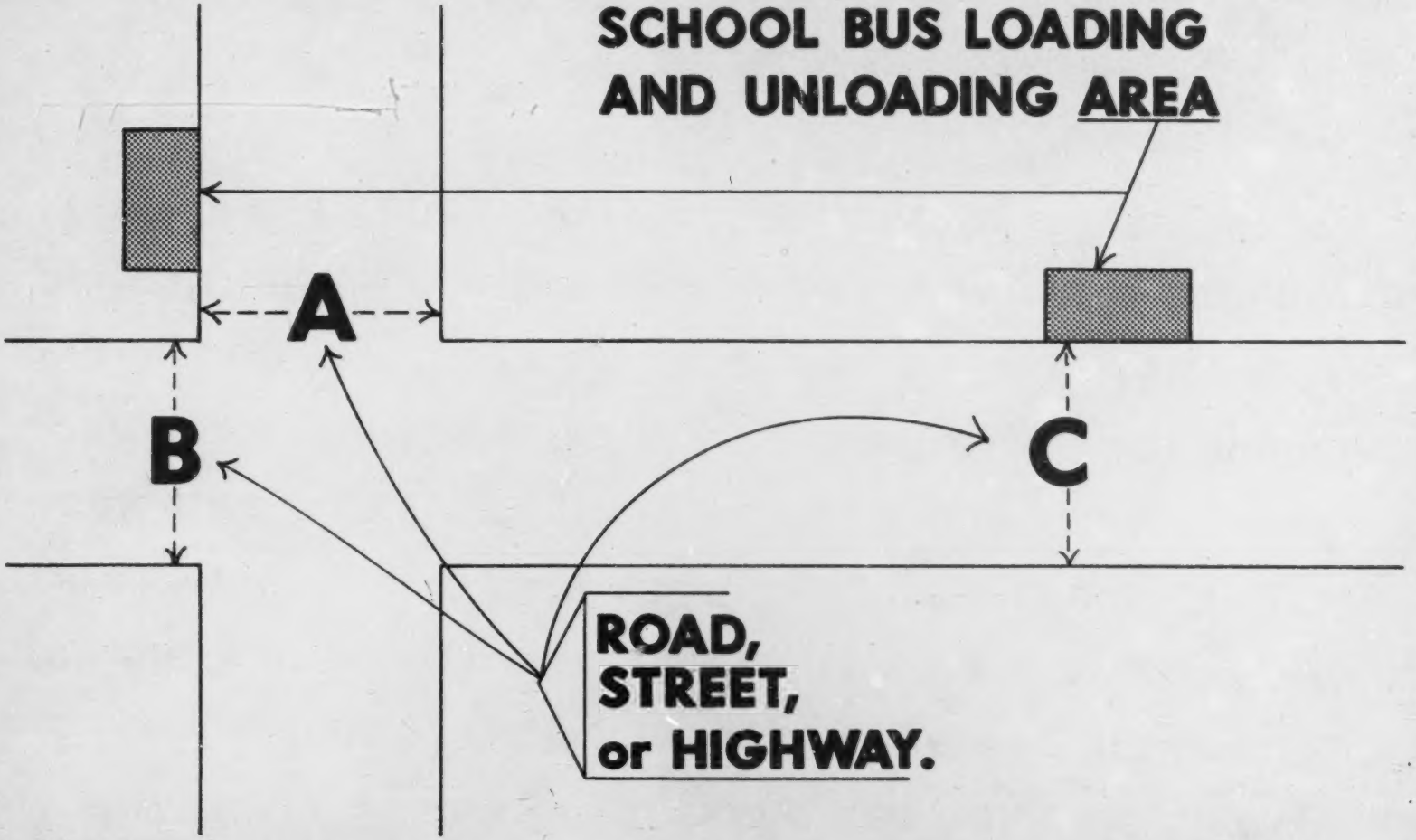
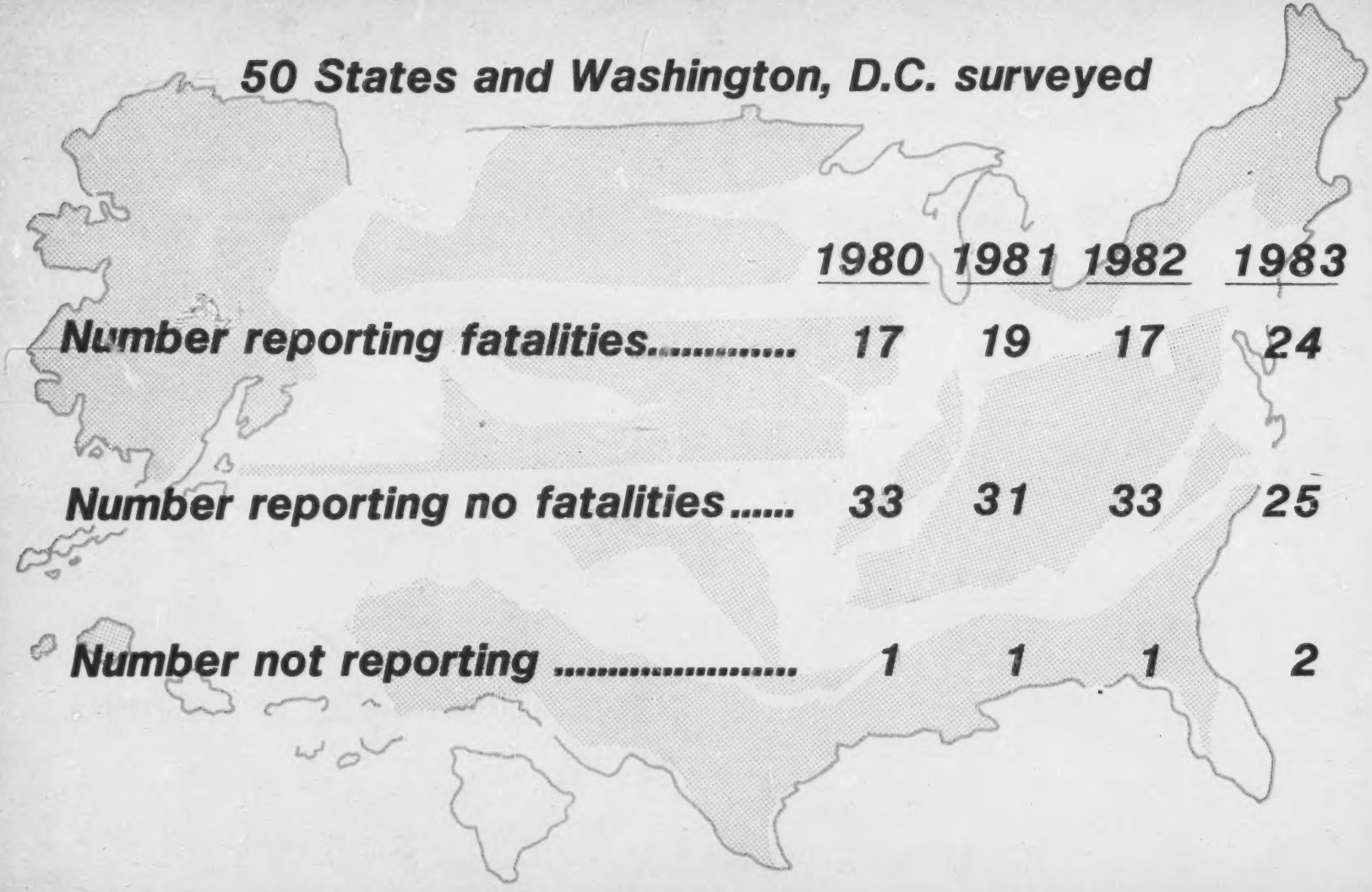
8/5/85 S3040-2-F

SCHOOL BUS LOADING & UNLOADING SURVEY

CALENDAR YEAR 1983 SCHOOL YEAR 83-84

The National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey is a collection of fatality accident records provided by the state agencies responsible for school transportation safety and/or accident records. Only those fatality accidents involving school children in or around the loading or unloading areas of a school bus are included in this survey. On-board fatalities are excluded, as are pedestrian-type fatalities that occur when the school bus is not in the near vicinity at the time of the accident.

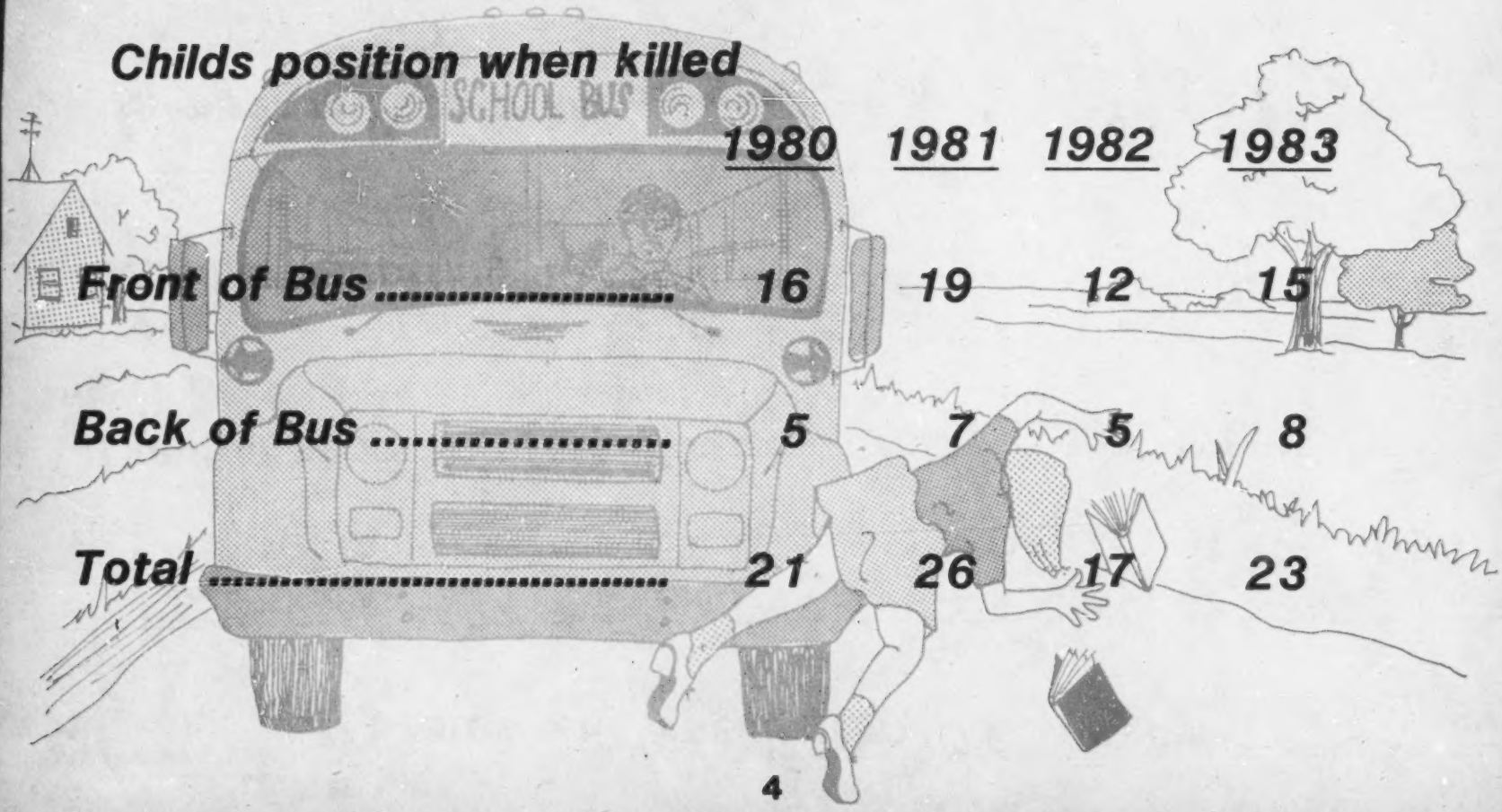

SCHOOL BUS LOADING
AND UNLOADING AREA
A
B
C
ROAD,
STREET,
or HIGHWAY.



50 States and Washington, D.C. surveyed

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Number reporting fatalities.....	17	19	17	24
Number reporting no fatalities.....	33	31	33	25
Number not reporting	1	1	1	2

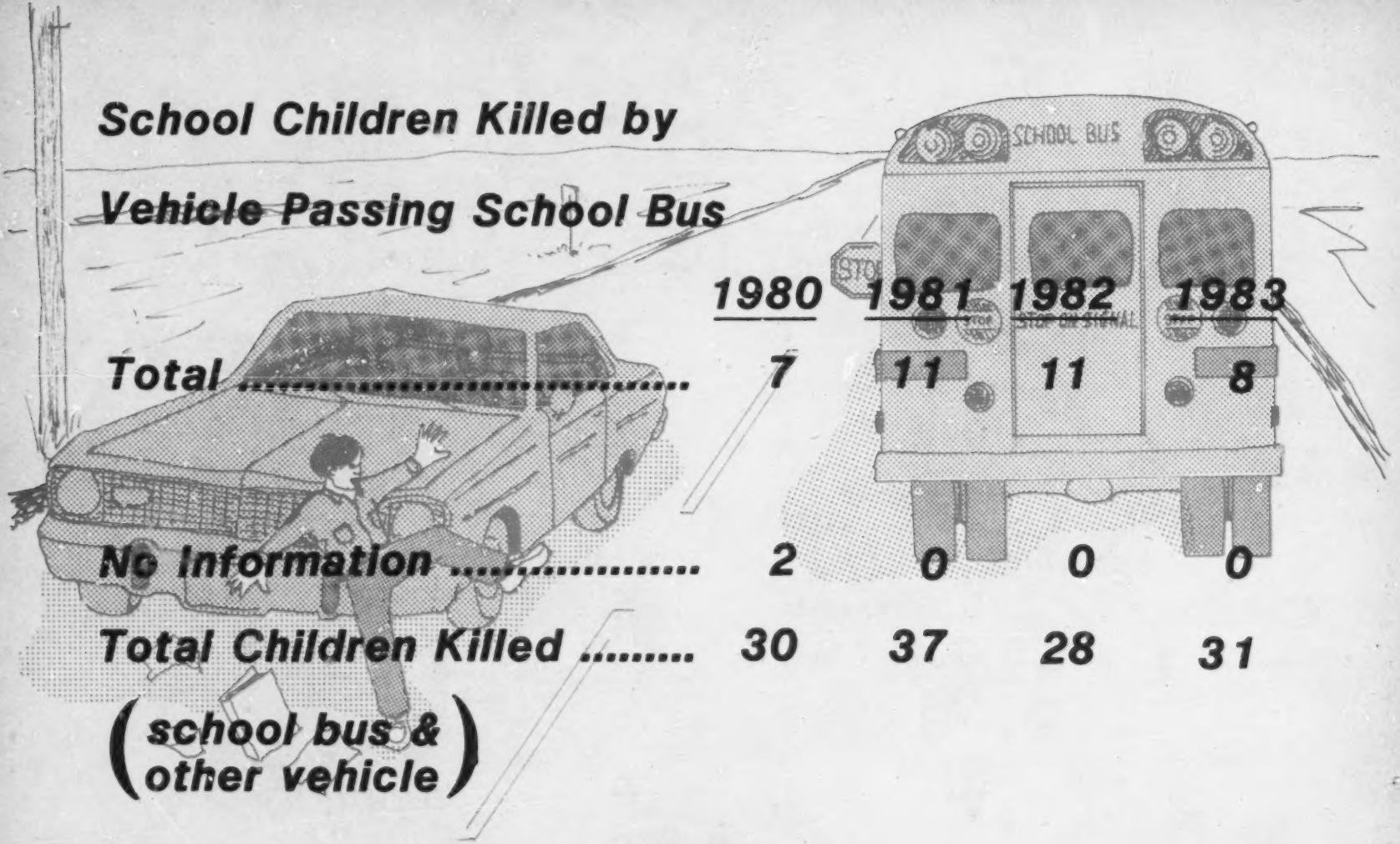
School Children Killed by School Bus



Childs position when killed

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Front of Bus	16	19	12	15
Back of Bus	5	7	5	8
Total	21	26	17	23

School Children Killed by Vehicle Passing School Bus

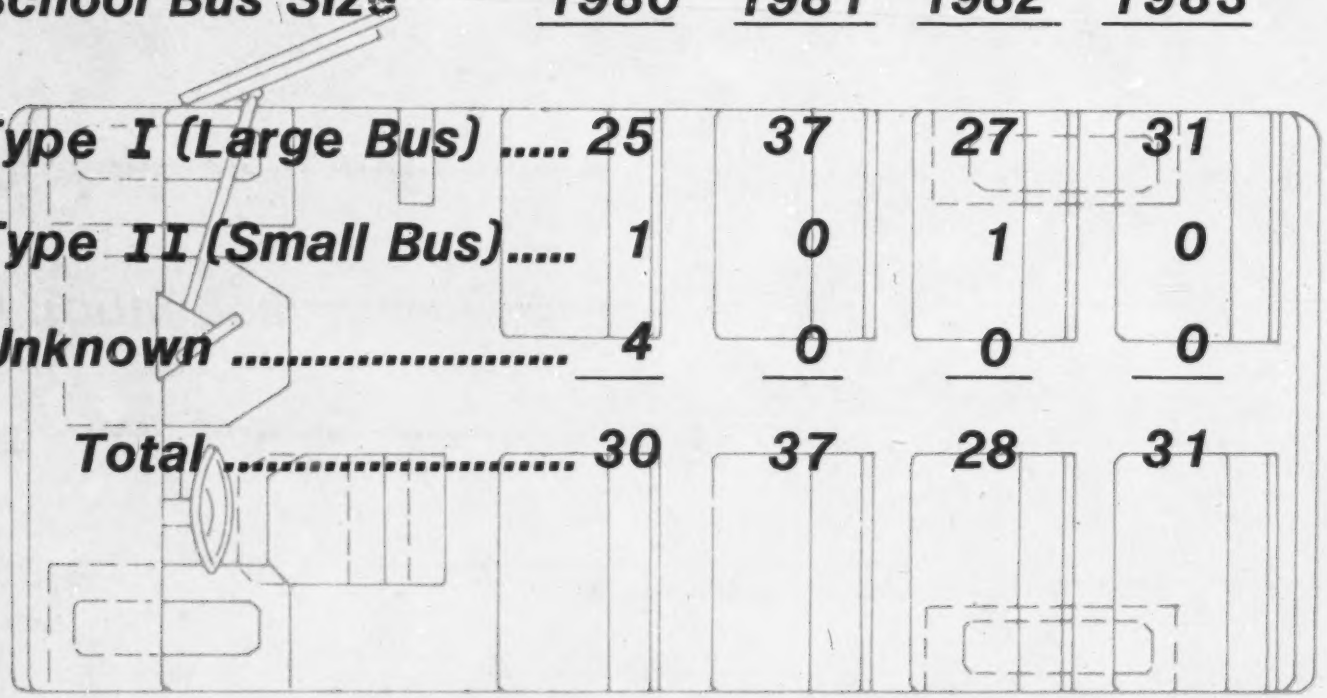


	1980	1981	1982	1983
Total	7	11	11	8
No Information	2	0	0	0
Total Children Killed	30	37	28	31

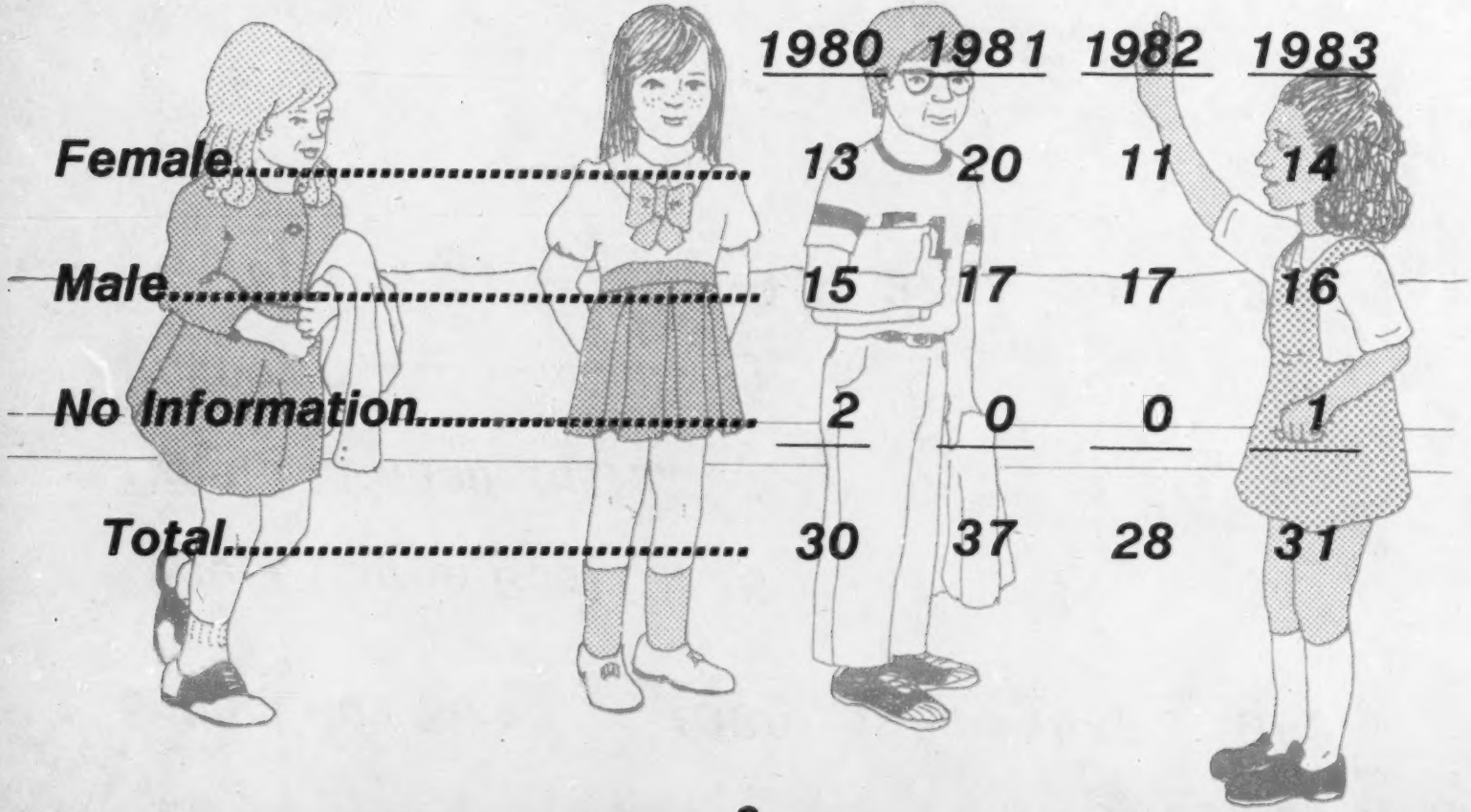
(school bus & other vehicle)

Light Condition	1980	1981	1982	1983
Dawn	0	0	1	2
Dusk	0	0	0	
Daylight	28	36	27	28
Dark	0	1	0	1
Unknown	2	0	0	0
Total	30	37	28	31

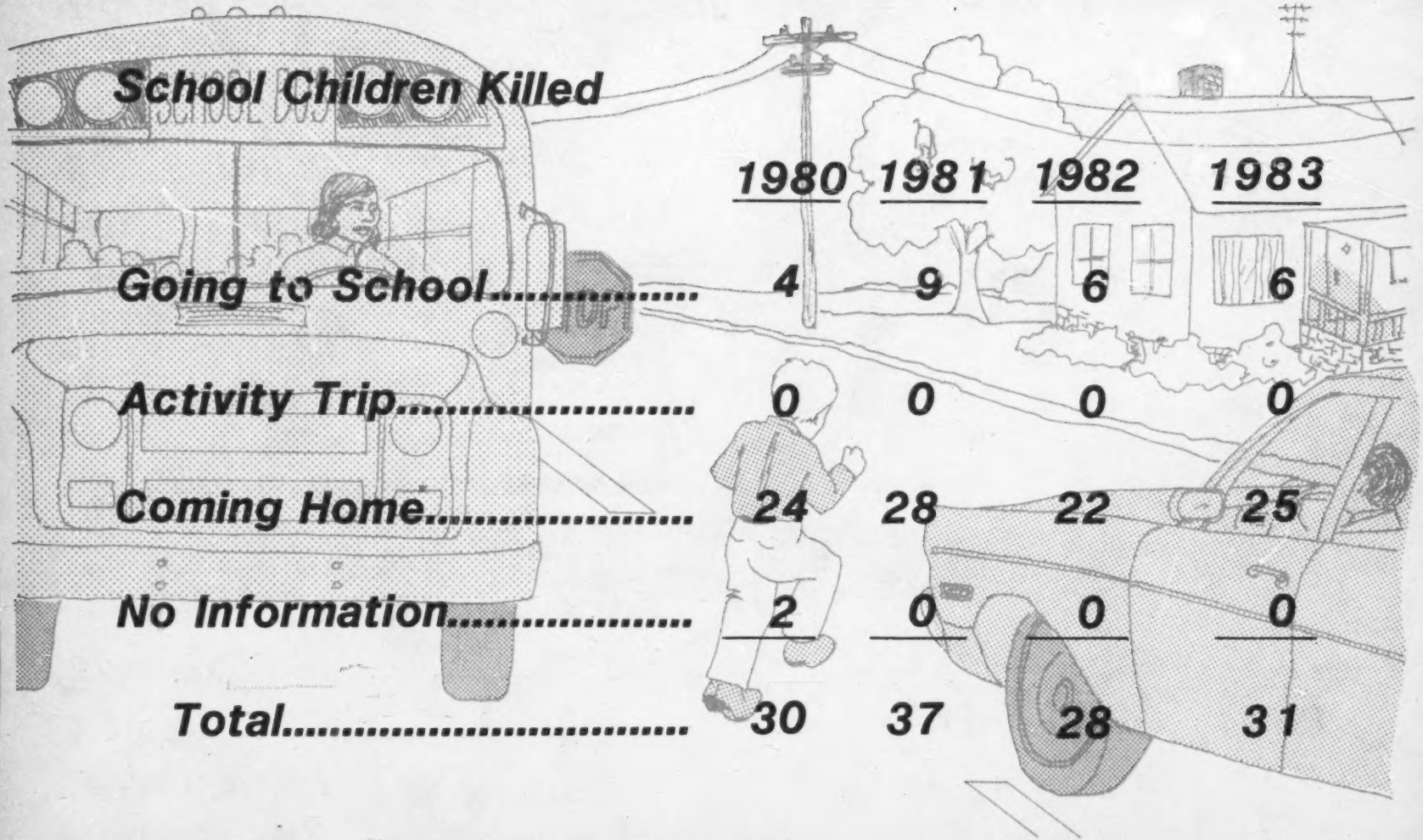
School Bus Size	1980	1981	1982	1983
Type I (Large Bus)	25	37	27	31
Type II (Small Bus).....	1	0	1	0
Unknown	4	0	0	0
Total	30	37	28	31



Sex of Child



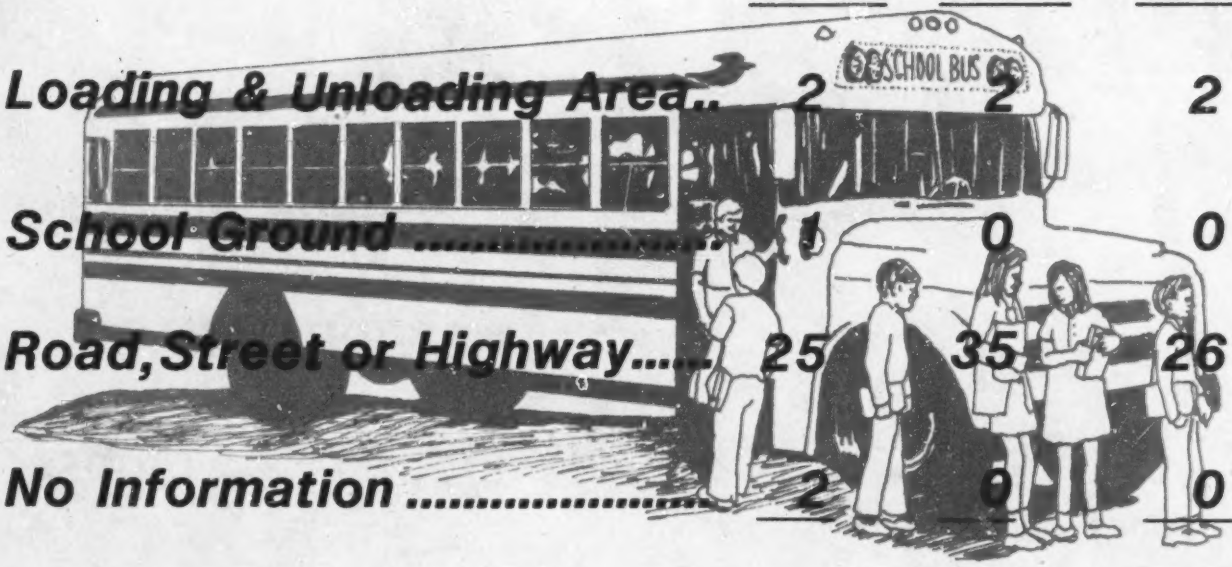
	1980	1981	1982	1983
Female	13	20	11	14
Male	15	17	17	16
No Information	2	0	0	1
Total	30	37	28	31



School Children Killed

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Going to School.....	4	9	6	6
Activity Trip.....	0	0	0	0
Coming Home.....	24	28	22	25
No Information.....	2	0	0	0
Total.....	30	37	28	31

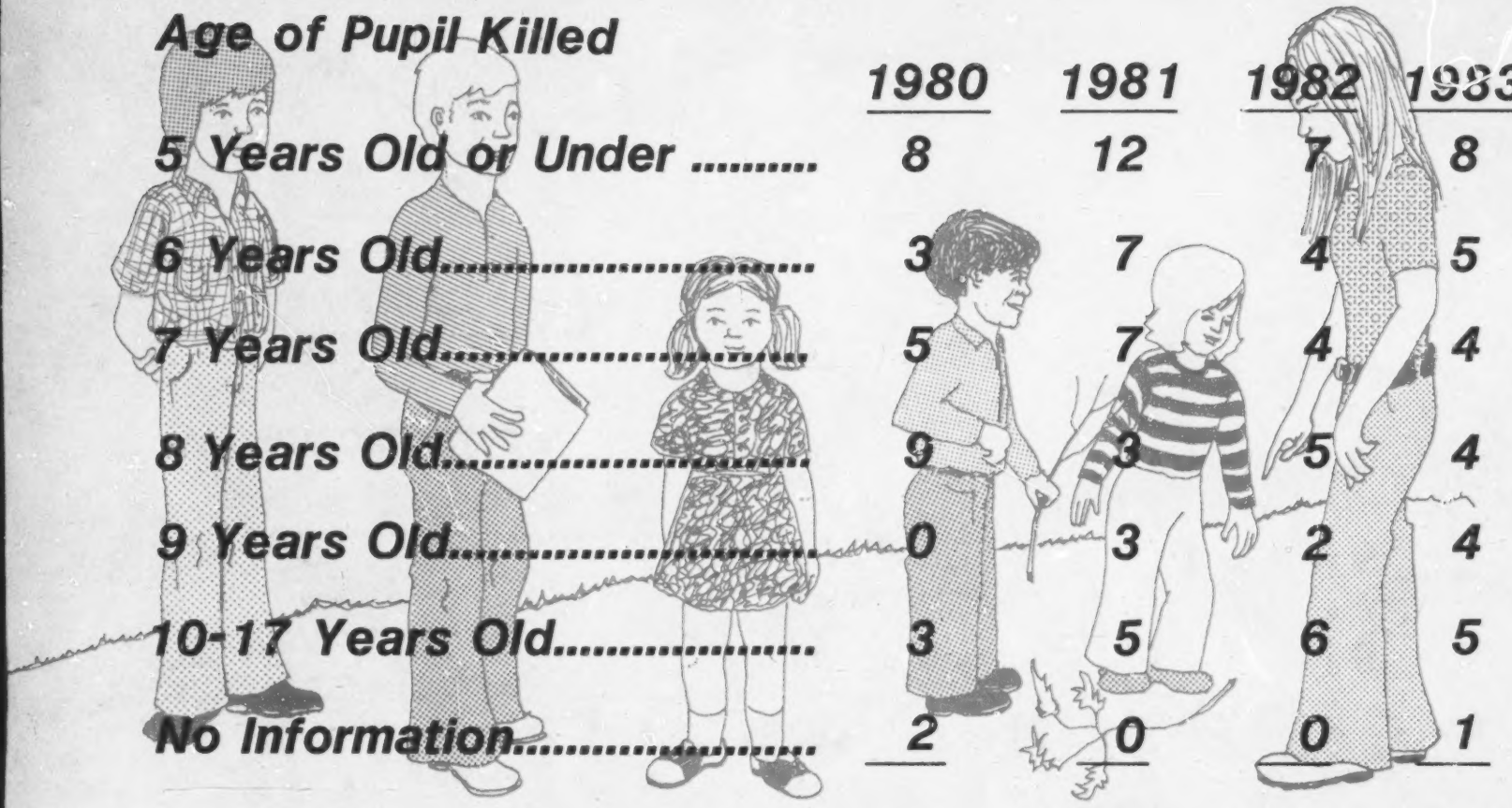
Place Pupil Was Killed



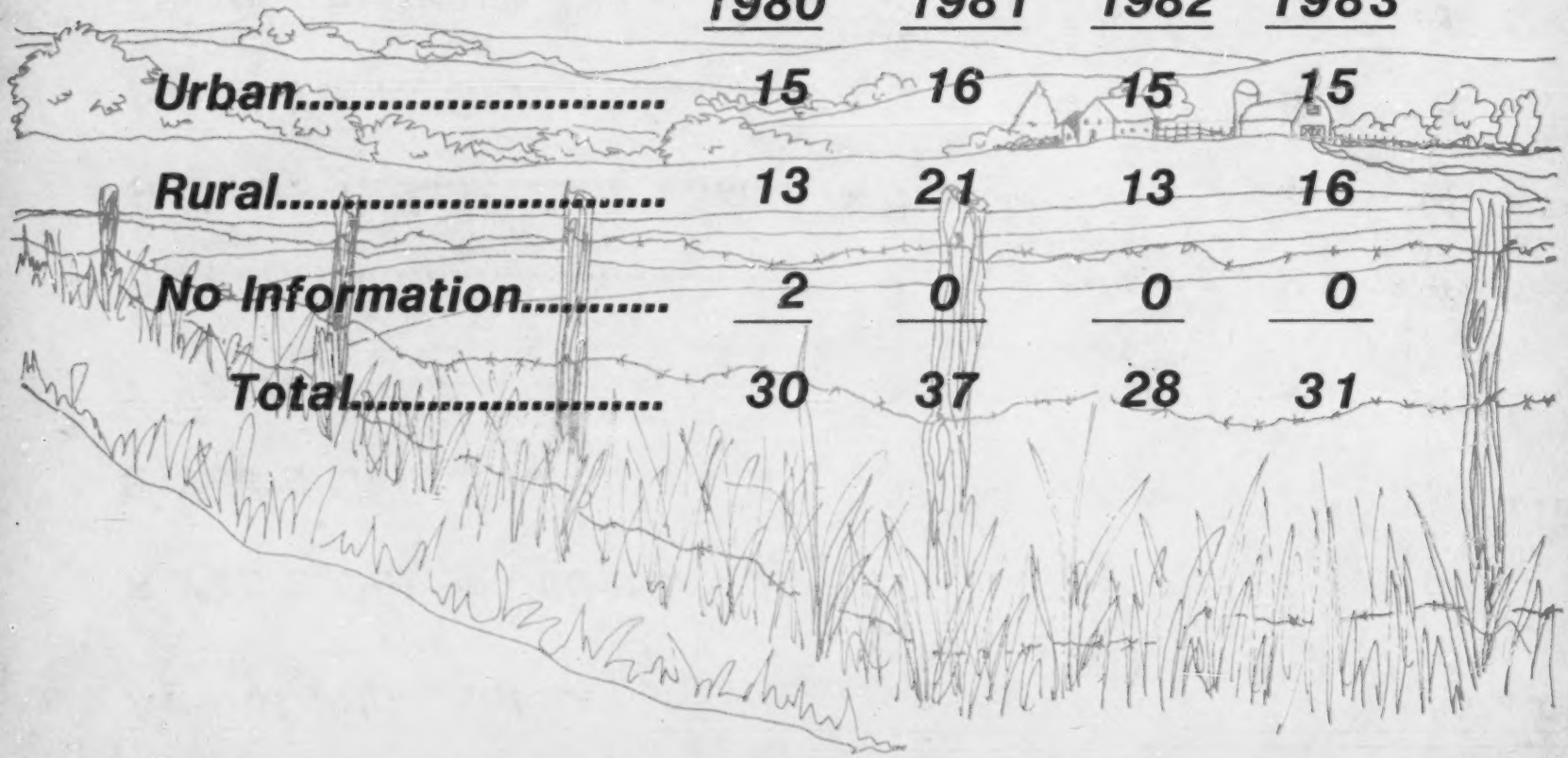
	1980	1981	1982	1983
Loading & Unloading Area..	2	2	2	6
School Ground	1	0	0	1
Road, Street or Highway.....	25	35	26	24
No Information	2	0	0	0
Total.....	30	37	28	31

Age of Pupil Killed

	1980	1981	1982	1983
5 Years Old or Under	8	12	7	8
6 Years Old.....	3	7	4	5
7 Years Old.....	5	7	4	4
8 Years Old.....	9	3	5	4
9 Years Old.....	0	3	2	4
10-17 Years Old.....	3	5	6	5
No Information.....	2	0	0	1
Total.....	30	37	28	31



Area Accident Occurred



	1980	1981	1982	1983
Urban.....	15	16	15	15
Rural.....	13	21	13	16
No Information.....	2	0	0	0
Total.....	30	37	28	31

Weather Conditions	1980	1981	1982	1983
Clear	23	31	26	26
Cloudy	1	5	1	2
Rain	4	1	0	0
Snow/Sleet/Ice	0	0	1	1
Fog	0	0	0	2
Unknown	2	0	0	0
Total	30	37	28	31

DAY OF THE WEEK FATALITY OCCURRED

1983 (Only)

MONDAY	6
TUESDAY	9
WEDNESDAY	1
THURSDAY	7
FRIDAY	7
SATURDAY	0
SUNDAY	0
UNKNOWN	1

STATE FATALITY TOTALS

STATE REPORTING FATALITIES	TOTAL NO. FATALS	PUPIL STRUCK BY			LOCATION PUPIL KILLED			PUPIL KILLED	
		OTHER VEHICLE	FRONT OF SCHOOL BUS	REAR OF SCHOOL BUS	LOAD/ UNLOAD ZONE	SCHOOL GROUNDS	ROAD, STREET OR HWY.	GOING TO SCHOOL	GOING HOME
Alabama	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Alaska	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Colorado	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Connecticut	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Georgia	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2
Illinois	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Indiana	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Iowa	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Kentucky	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Maine	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Michigan	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Minnesota	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
New York	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2
North Carolina	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
North Dakota	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Ohio	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
Oregon	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pennsylvania	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rhode Island	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
South Carolina	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
Tennessee	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Utah	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2
Virginia	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Wisconsin	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	31	8	15	8	6	1	24	6	25

MONTH FATAL ACCIDENT OCCURRED

	1980	1981	1982	1983
JANUARY	5	4	4	1
FEBRUARY	4	3	3	4
MARCH	4	7	1	4
APRIL	0	5	2	3
MAY	2	3	0	4
JUNE	1	0	0	0
JULY	0	0	0	0
AUGUST	0	0	2	0
SEPTEMBER	3	1	2	1
OCTOBER	4	4	7	6
NOVEMBER	3	5	3	5
DECEMBER	4	2	1	2
NO INFORMATION	0	3	3	1
TOTAL	30	37	28	31

ACCIDENT SUMMARY REPORT

1. The school bus was stopped to unload children. Children were crossing in front of the bus. The school bus was hit from the rear by a road grader. The bus was knocked approximately 50 feet killing the student. The road grader also ran over the child. (8 yr. old male)

2. Several students exited the school bus. The student that was killed joined other students in "hooky-bobbing" on the back of the bus. There wasn't sufficient room, so he held on to the side of the bus near the right rear wheels. His feet slipped under the wheels as the bus made a turn. The right rear duals ran over the student before the driver could stop. (12 yr. old male)

3. Student was on the trip home from school and was struck by the front of the school bus. (5 yr. old female)

4. The school bus stopped on a four-lane road which did not have a physical barrier divider. Two vehicles stopped behind the school bus. A third vehicle passed both stopped cars and the school bus from the rear and struck and killed the student as she crossed the road. (12 yr. old female)

5. Student was going home from school and was struck and killed by the front of the school bus. (5 yr. old)

6. Student was going home from school and was struck and killed by a vehicle passing the stopped school bus. (5 yr. old)

7. A westbound auto driven by an 84 year old male did not heed the red flashing lights of the school bus or stop arm and struck the student as he crossed rural blacktop road. (7 yr. old male)

8. The school bus driver stopped and discharged three students. The driver said that all three were observed clearing the front of the bus, and at that time she started forward and felt and heard a thump, and immediately stopped. The driver did not see the victim in front of the school bus. A witness driving a second school bus behind the fatality vehicle stated she saw two students clear the front of the bus and observed the victim on the ground under the stop arm of 1st school bus. She stated she saw the school bus drive over the victim with the left rear tires. (9 yr. old male)

9. The bus approached street-side loading area at Junior High School. Students lined up waiting for buses to arrive. One student was moving toward the street as buses pulled into loading area. Student tripped over another pupil's foot and fell beneath the right rear duals of the bus and was killed. (8 yr. old male)

10. Bus stopped in subdivision to load several students. Substitute driver, distracted by other students on the bus, failed to see student crossing in front of the bus. Driver proceeded, striking student with front wheel. (6 yr. old male)

11. Bus stopped to unload students on rural road. Red flashing warning lights and stop arm were operating properly. Five vehicles stopped behind the bus. Vehicle approaching from near, passed all five vehicles and the school bus, striking student crossing road. (8 yr. old male)

12. The school bus had just picked up two children at a school bus stop and started to leave. The pedestrian was late for the school bus and ran in front of the moving school bus. The pedestrian was knocked down and went under the vehicle, the right rear tires ran over the pedestrian. The driver did not see the pedestrian. (5 yr. old male)

13. The student was on the way home and was struck by the rear of the school bus after exiting. (5 yr. old male)

14. Student was on trip home from school and was struck by the front of the school bus. (unk.)

15. Student checked traffic before crossing the two lane roadway on trip home. An oil truck came over the crest of a hill from behind and could not stop on the down grade. The truck driver passed the standing bus on the left and swerved back into the right lane to avoid the waiting car facing him. In doing this the truck struck the boy who apparently froze in panic. (10 yr. old male)

16. Three students, including the victim disembarked from the bus and were playing close to the right side of the bus when the driver started forward. The victim fell under the bus in front of the right rear dual wheels. (5 yr. old female)

17. The driver of a passenger vehicle failed to see a stopped school bus with stop sign and all lights in operation due to fog. The vehicle struck the right rear of the bus in a glancing blow at 45 mph and continued down the right side striking two boys just outside the entrance door of the school bus. One student died approximately 12 hours after the accident, the second survived. (9 yr. old male)

18. The student was fatally injured when he fell into the rear wheel area of the school bus as it pulled up to a loading point in a housing development. (5 yr. old male)

19. Fatality occurred on trip home, struck by the front of the school bus. (6 yr. old)

20. Fatality occurred on trip home, struck by the front of the school bus. (7 yr. old)

21. Fatality occurred on trip home, struck by the front of the school bus. (7 yr. old)

22. The school bus was stopped with flashing red lights in operation to unload the student. The student has passed in front when a van approaching the bus from the rear attempted to pass. The student was subsequently struck and killed by the van. (14 yr. old female)

23. The school bus stopped to discharge passengers at the bus stop. The student exited the school bus, the operator closed the door, assumed that the child was walking to the rear of the bus. At the same point, the child turned and walked around to the front of the bus, the operator not looking in the front mirror, which would enable him to see the child, began to move forward. As the bus moved forward, the child was struck and killed. (6 yr. old male)

24. Student was discharged from the bus. The driver paid no attention, child went to retrieve an object that rolled under the bus. Right rear wheels ran over student. (5 yr. old female)

25. Substitute driver trying to control discipline in the rear of the bus, thinking that the student had already crossed in front of the bus, started in motion and struck the student. (female)

26. Bus driver stated that four students departed the bus, three students went to the right and one crossed in front of the bus. The driver claimed that she did not see the student, started the bus in motion and struck the student. (female)

27. The school bus driver was making the first afternoon unloading stop, with about 20 students exiting the bus. He waited about 2 minutes for the students to clear the area before he moved the bus. He checked all mirrors and proceeded to pull away when he felt a bump and realized that he had run over something. An investigation revealed that the student had apparently dropped some school papers in front of the bus and ran back to get them. Bending over, she was out of sight of the driver. (6 yr. old female)

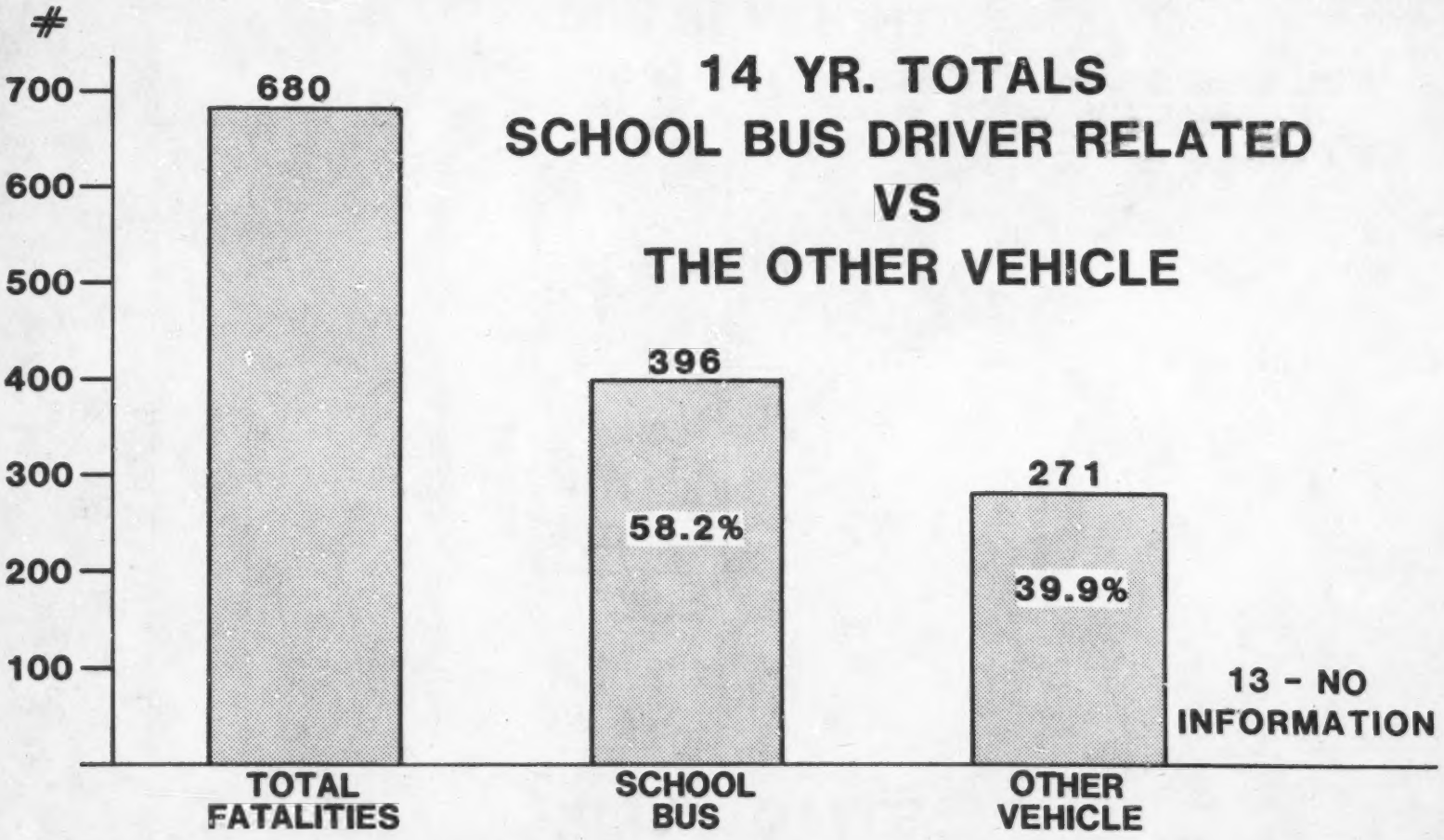
28. The driver stated the bus was stopped to discharge school children. Students were discharged from the bus, the door closed, checked mirrors, moved into a right turn, and after nearly completing the turn, had a feeling to stop the bus. The bus's right rear duals had run over the student. It was the students birthday, and due to her preoccupation with activities planned, she proceeded into the street into the path of the school bus. (6 yr. old female)

29. Driver approached loading zone at the school to pick up students. He was about two minutes late, and as he approached the curb there were students standing in the parking lot and on the lawn. Some of the students started to approach the bus and there was some pushing and shoving as the students tried to jockey for position in line. The driver applied the brakes and brought the bus to a stop. Hearing a scream, he looked in the right lower mirror and saw someone lying in front of the front tire. He backed the bus up and got off to render aid. (16 yr. old female)

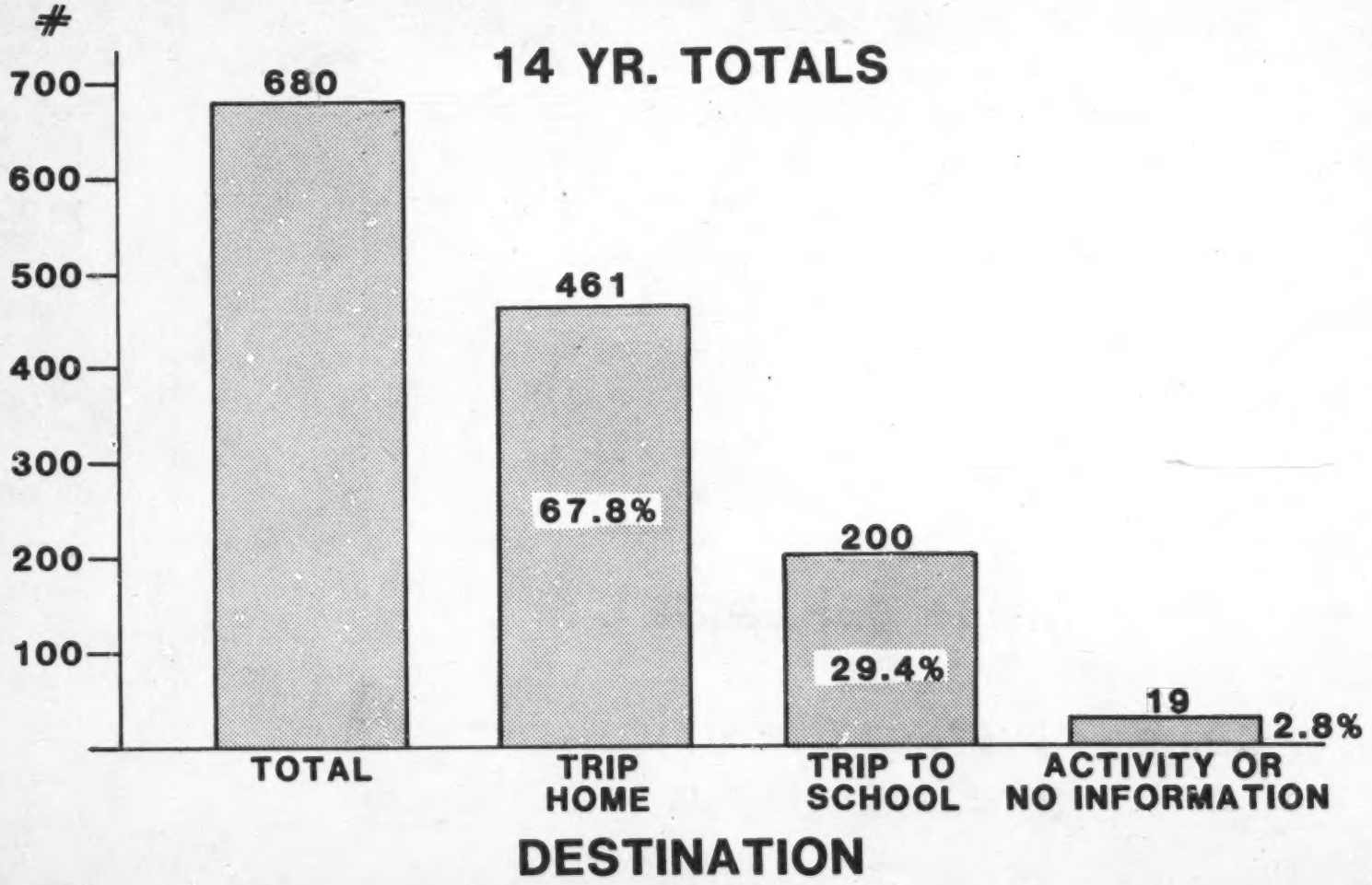
30. A passenger vehicle was passing a school bus disabled in the roadway when the victim exited the bus and walked around the front of the bus and stepped into the path of the passenger vehicle. This accurred on the trip to school. (9 yr. old female)

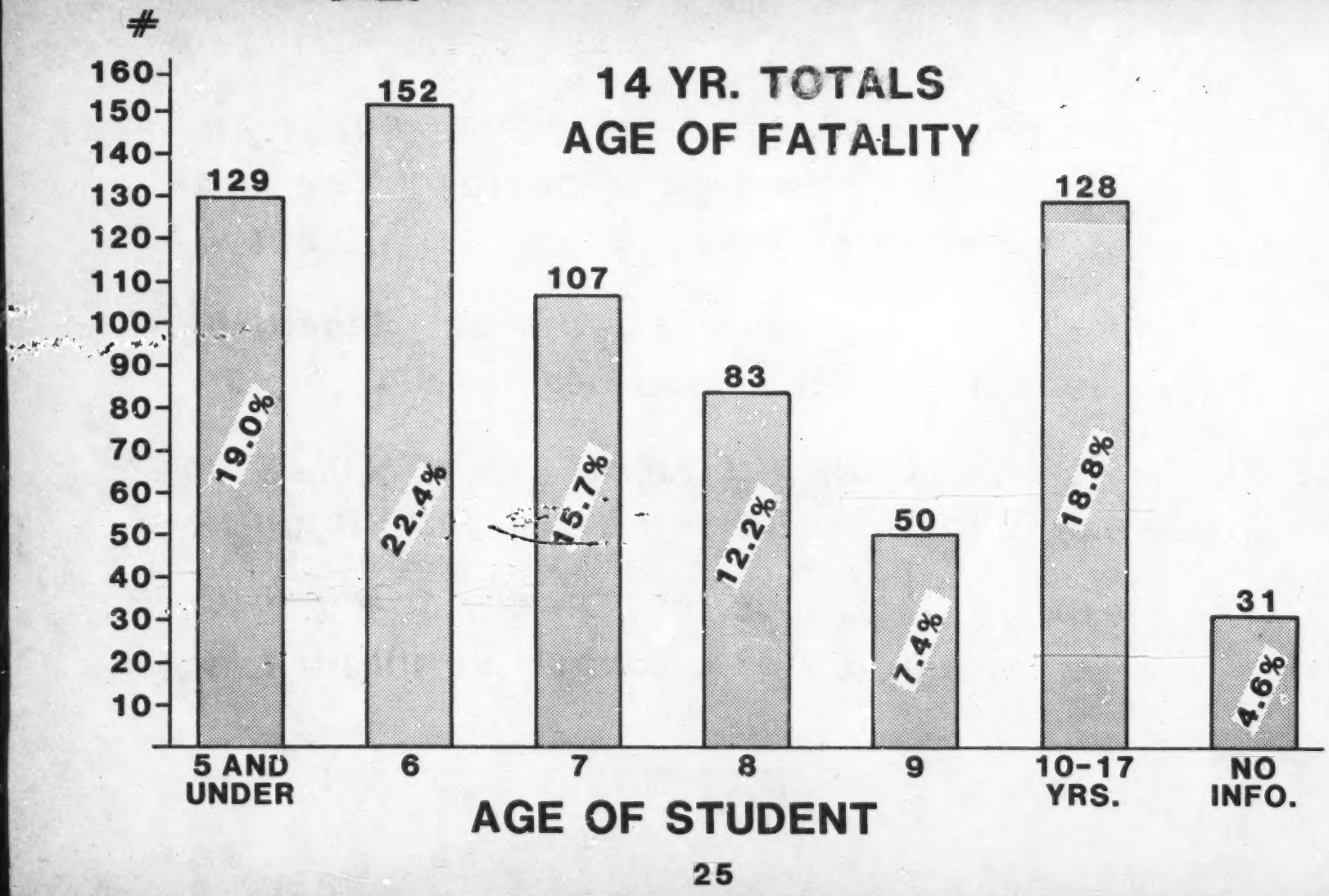
31. Driver of the bus advised that she had let the child off at the regular stop. She advised the student to stay on the sidewalk with his skateboard, then checked all mirrors, saw nothing and then proceeded. The next thing she knew other motorists were telling her to stop, she did and got off the bus and observed the child laying on the roadway. (8 yr. old male)

SPECIAL NOTE: A number of fatalities occurred and were reported where students were struck as pedestrians walking along the road or crossing it to reach or return from the bus stop. In these instances, the bus was not "in the area" to provide protection to the student or warning signs to other motorists. These are not included in this report.



14 YR. TOTALS SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RELATED VS THE OTHER VEHICLE


#
14 YR. TOTALS
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
680
461
67.8%
200
29.4%
19
2.8%
TOTAL
TRIP HOME
TRIP TO SCHOOL
ACTIVITY OR NO INFORMATION
DESTINATION


#
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
14 YR. TOTALS
AGE OF FATALITY
129
19.0%
152
22.4%
107
15.7%
83
12.2%
50
7.4%
128
18.8%
31
4.6%
5 AND UNDER
6
7
8
9
10-17 YRS.
NO INFO.
AGE OF STUDENT

SUMMARY

- *471 fatalities occurred to students 5, 6, 7 & 8 yrs. of age, or 69.3 % of total.*
- *Students departing bus on way home involved in 67.8% of all fatalities in the study.*
- *School bus related accidents outnumber those involving "the other vehicle"*
- *In the 80, 81, 82, & 83 calendar years, the school bus was involved in 69.0% of the accidents or 87 of the 126 fatalities that occurred.*

This survey is provided annually to the school transportation industry in an effort to alert individuals and organizations of the dangers involved in loading and unloading school children. Fatalities continue to occur at the bus stop, caused by a variety of circumstances and errors on the part of the school bus driver or a passing motorist. It points out the continuing need for forceful, advanced instruction to school bus drivers, and the need to increase our efforts to thoroughly inform the driving public about the requirements of the school bus stop law.

Limited quantities of this document are available from the address provided below. Please feel free to reproduce and utilize the survey data as desired, as it is provided specifically for this purpose.

Bureau of Management Services-Safety
Kansas Department of Transportation
State Office Bldg., 7th Floor
Topeka, Kansas
66612 (913) 296-3551